(c) The incremental production from some of these wells will commence in 2001- 02, reaching the plateau production from the year 2003-2004.

**Review of Oil Stocking Policy**

258. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a write up captioned "Asia needs to rethink oil stocking policy" which appeared in the Indian Express dated 14th September, 2001 highlighting *inter-alia* the vulnerability of Indian Oil Policy to supply disruptions as, reportedly, it does not operate State strategic reserves of oil for emergency;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken to review and create adequate oil reserves or to reduce its consumption and where possible, switch to alternative such as coal or gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have received Detailed Feasibility Reports to provide for around 15 days strategic tankage for crude oil. No final decision has been taken as yet. Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), set up under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, undertakes schemes and programmes that help avoiding wasteful consumption and for promotion of conservation of petroleum products. These include awareness campaign, training programmes in the transport sector, introduction of efficient boilers, furnaces and other oil operated equipments in the industrial sector, rectification of existing pumps to make them more energy efficient in the agriculture sectors, development & promotion of fuel efficient equipments and appliances like kerosene and LPG stove in the household sector etc.

Coal as a source of energy is being exploited for use by various sectors the main among them being Power, Steel, Cement etc. The total production of coal during 2000-2001 in the country was 309 million tonnes (Prov.) Coal Bed Methane (CBM) is also planned to be exploited.